

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Patent Application 09/360,951
Our Ref: A7753

REMARKS

By way of this Amendment, Applicant has added new claims 25-31 to more fully claim the invention. Further, Applicant has made clarifying, non-narrowing amendments to claims 13, and 21-24.

Prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

Claim 13 (Amended). A method for producing a color identifying polymeric coating having at least one chromophore ~~molecules-molecule~~ covalently bonded thereto on at least a portion of a transmission medium of a telecommunication element, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a transmission medium;

providing a colored, radiation curable coating composition comprising:

a radiation curable composition capable of forming a polymeric coating; and

a colored oligomer having the at least one chromophore ~~molecules-molecule~~ covalently bonded thereto and wherein the colored oligomer is capable of covalent bonding with the radiation curable composition;

applying the coating composition to at least a portion of the transmission medium;

and

exposing the applied coating composition for a suitable period of time to radiation of a suitable wavelength and intensity to cause curing of the composition into the color identifying polymeric coating.

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Claim 21 (Amended). The ~~communications element~~ method of claim 13, wherein the ~~elongated~~ transmission medium is an optical fiber having a core and a cladding surrounding the core.

Claim 22 (Amended). The ~~communications element~~ method of claim 13, wherein the ~~elongated~~ transmission medium is an optical fiber having a core, a cladding surround the core and a polymeric coating on the cladding.

Claim 23 (Amended). The ~~communications element~~ method of claim 13, wherein the ~~elongated~~ transmission medium is an optical fiber having a core, a cladding surrounding the core, an inner polymeric coating on the cladding and an outer polymeric coating on the inner polymeric coating.

Claim 24 (Amended). The ~~communications element~~ method of claim 13, wherein the ~~elongated~~ transmission medium is a plurality of optical fibers arranged in an array.

Claims 25-31 are added as new claims.

-25 (New). The telecommunication element of claim 1, wherein said at least one chromophore molecule comprises an anthraquinone.

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26 (New). The telecommunication element of claim 1, wherein said at least one chromophore molecule comprises a methione.

27 (New). The telecommunication element of claim 1, wherein said at least one chromophore molecule comprises an azo compound.

28 (New). The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one chromophore molecule comprises an anthraquinone.

29 (New). The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one chromophore molecule comprises a methione.

30 (New). 27 (New). The method of claim 13, wherein said at least one chromophore molecule comprises an azo compound.

31 (New). A color coating comprising:
a radiation curable composition for forming a polymeric coating; and
a colored oligomer having at least one chromophore molecule covalently bonded thereto,
said colored oligomer being covalently bonded to the radiation curable composition.--.